ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process is defined which maintains in a host
repository, such as a flat file or a database, a record
of configuration information for a plurality of data
processing hosts in a distributed system, such as a test
system. Configuration information comprises details of
products installed on the host and details of how such
installed products are configured. Program requirements
which contain the host configuration requirements of a
program, such as a test program, to be executed are then
obtained and compared with the host information in the
host repository in order to identify a host that is
capable of executing the program. One of these hosts is
then selected and the program is executed on it.